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(b) whether this information has been placed at the disposal of Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. of Calcutta and of Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Limited ; and

(c) if so, why this information was furnished to these English firms only and not to Indian firms or to the South Indian Chamber of Commerce ?

A.—(a) No.
(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Alleged aid by Collectors to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. of Calcutta.

*193 Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have advised by demi-official the Collectors of all the districts that they should render all help to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. of Calcutta, Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Limited, and Messrs. Croft, Forbes and Chard, in connexion with the electrification schemes of towns in their districts ?

A.—No

Progress of hydro-electric schemes.

*194 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place before the Council a statement showing the progress made in regard to various hydro-electric schemes, the financial provisions made therefor, the establishments sanctioned, and the various places to which electricity engendered is to be carried and with what probable success ?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 92 at the Legislative Council meeting held on 4th September 1928 in regard to the progress made on hydro-electric schemes. The present position is as follows :—

The Pykara scheme.—The Railway Board have not yet come to a decision in regard to the electrification of the South Indian Railway sections. The Government have decided to proceed with the scheme without awaiting the Railway Board's decision, and the Government of India have been addressed to obtain the Secretary of State's sanction to the execution of the scheme.

The Glen-Morgan scheme.—The construction of the scheme is rapidly progressing and work is expected to be completed in a few months.

The Papanasam scheme.—No decision has yet been arrived at in regard to this scheme. Attempts are being made to secure demand for a definite block of power to enable the scheme to be proceeded with.

The investigation of the *Kolab scheme* is in progress and a report from the Chief Engineer for Hydro-electric Development is awaited.

2. The financial provision made for hydro-electric schemes is given on pages 201–203 and 405 of the Civil Budget Estimate for 1929–30.

3. A statement showing the establishment sanctioned for the Hydro-electric Development department is attached.[a]

[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 435–436 infra.

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4. As at present surveyed, the Pykara scheme is expected to supply power to the following places from the first year of its operation:—The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Pollachi, Anamalais, Dindigul and Palni, Trichinopoly and Madura, Erode and Shoranur will be included from the 4th and 7th year respectively.

The Glen-Morgan scheme will supply power to Ootacamund, Coonoor, Wellington, Gudalur and to some tea estates in the Nilgiris.

The places which are expected to be served by the Papanasam scheme are Tuticorin, Tinnevelly, Sattur, Kovilpatti and Ambasamudram, if the construction of the larger scheme is undertaken. The smaller scheme will be sufficient to supply power only to a few industrial concerns near Tuticorin.

Mr. D. Thomas:—"May I know whether with reference to the Papanasam scheme any negotiations have been conducted with Messrs. Harway & Co., who are running a spinning mill, in regard to securing block of power?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I want notice. So far as I am aware, no."

Mr. D. Thomas:—"May I know for how long this question has been under the consideration of Government?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"For some time now."

Mr. D. Thomas:—"May I know whether any investigation has been made with regard to the scheme and whether a report has been submitted?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"There was no detailed investigation."

Mr. D. Thomas:—"May I know when this question is likely to be finally decided?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I am afraid not for some years."

Village Courts Act

Introduction of a Bill to amend the Village Courts Act.

*195 Q.—Mr. K. R. Karant: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether he proposes to introduce a Bill to amend the Village Courts Act during the next sitting of the Council?

A.—No.

11-45 a.m. Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know why the hon. Member does not propose to introduce the Bill in the next sitting of the Council?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—"My hon. Friend will notice that the question was sent on the 21st May and the answer 'No' therefore means that it will not be introduced in this sitting of the Council."